and multipurpose projects, need for effective coordination with other Central agencies, facilities of a well equipped library for reference books and other data as well as infrastructure available at the Delhi office of the Commission, it is considered not possible to shift part of the directorates of Central Water Commission dealing with hydrology, designs and project appraisal pertaining to Southern States to Hyderabad.

Restoration of agricultural land

1501. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to overflow of Chenab river thousands of acres of agricultural land is being destroyed every year;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to restore agricultural land;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir for these agricultural land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per information available, on an average 955 hectares (about 2360 acres) of fertile land in Jammu District is affected due to flooding from Chenab and other rivers.

(b) to (d) Available information from Government of Jammu and Kashmir indicates execution of flood protection works at vulnerable spots on Left Bank of river Chenab, downstream Akhnoor with Institutional funding and funds available with the State.

The State Government has also sent a Master Plan for flood protection works on river Chenab in J&K State at an estimated cost of Rs. 23 crores for techno-economic appraisal and acceptance by Planning Commission. The proposal envisages strengthening of existing embankments and construction of new embankments, spurs, studs,

crate, bars etc. The proposal is at various stages of appraisal and replies of the Project Authorities to the comments/observations of certain specialized units under Ministry of Water Resources have been found to be in order.

As per Ministry of Agriculture, no new proposal has been received from the State Government for restoration of agricultural land. However, Chenab river catchment falling in the State has been included in the beginning of Tenth Five Year Plan in ongoing Centrally Sponsored Programme of Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Land in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River.

Development of Hydro Electric Project in J and K

1502. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has suggested prioritized, sequenced and pragmatic path to be followed to deal with issues concerning availability and usage of scarce water resources;

(b) whether the World Bank Water Expert and Country Director of Brazil has pointed out that water has become a big issue;

(c) whether it has also been suggested that India and Pakistan should think of jointly developing a major hydro-electric project in Jammu and Kashmir and should take up major dam projects in a big way; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to implement suggestions made by the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Mr. John Briscoe of the World Bank has recently prepared a draft report titled "India's Water Economy: Bracing for a Turbulent Future". The report also includes suggestions for prioritized, sequenced and pragmatic path to deal with issues concerning availability and usage of scarce water resources.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Most of the issues are duly addressed in the National Water Policy and appropriate actions are taken in light of the present policies of the Union and the State Governments.